(d) The number of persons killed in road accidents in other three metropolitan cities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras for the year 1992 was 406, 472 and 500 (Estimated) respectively.

Age of Ships in Indian Fleet

427. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Wiil the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have rejected the request of the ship owners for relaxation of age for acquisition of ships;

(b) what are the compelling reasons for such rejection;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the average age of the Indian Merchant ship fleet is fourteen years and while for World fleet is Eighteen years; and

(d) whether Government propose to reconsider the request of the shipowners for age relaxation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANS-POT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To maintain the objectives set out in the 8th Plan document and the import and export policy 1992-97. Moreover, the age norms were revised only in March, 1991.

(c) the average age of Indian and World merchant fleets is 14 years and 17 years, respectively.

(d) Yes Sir, in due course.

Funds Allocated for the development of National Highway in Gujarat

428. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE; Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and reserved for Maintenance, Development and repair of existing National' Highways dursng 1992-93; 1993-94 district-wise of Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Fonds allocated for development, maintenance and repairs of National Highways in Gujarat State are as under:—

	1992-93	1993-94 (Tentative)
	(Rs. in lakhe)	
Original Works	4650.00	4800.00
Maintenance & Repairs	881.37	766.70

The funds are allocated for the State as a whole and not district-wise.

कोचीन शिपयार्ड का बन्द किया जाना

429. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :**
श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर :

क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कोचीन पोत प्रांगण को बंद किया जा रहा है, यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ख) इस पोत प्रांगण में जहाजों के निर्माण के लिए आर्डर देने के संबंध में सरकार ने क्या नीति तैयार की है; और

(ग) वर्तमान में इस पोत प्रांगण में कार्यरत स्थायी तथा अस्थायी कर्मचारियों की संख्या कितनी है ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाईटलर) : (क) जी, नहीं ।